Chapter 56

SINCE THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL IS ALMOST HERE,

WE'RE ON THE LAST STAGE OF PREPARATIONS.

IT'S ALREADY ALMOST 18:00...

MIE-SAN'S PARENTS SEEM TO BE STRICT WHEN IT COMES TO CURFEW...

BUT WHAT IF YOU BROKE THOSE RULES?

NO WAY.

I'm scared of that.

MY PARENTS SAY I HAVE TO LEAVE AT 18:00.

I KNOW...

I WANNA GET THIS DONE TODAY...

THAT SOUNDS ROUGH...

AND THE WORST PART IS...

THEY DON'T LET ME HAVE HOT CHOCOLATE THE NEXT MORNING.

Well...

FIRST OFF, THEY GET REALLY MAD...

WILL THERE BE PUNISHMENT OR SOMETHING?

HEY GUYS, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE'RE GONNA GET THIS DONE SOON,

SO RAISE YOUR HANDS IF YOU CAN STAY UNTIL 19:00.

Thanks, everyone.

LET'S GET THIS DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ...

MY HOUSE IS CLOSE TO SCHOOL, SO...

SHE'S TALKING ABOUT THAT AGAIN...?

CLOSER...

Hey, Komura,

Have you kissed Mie-san yet?

Menacing...

UM...

I REALLY WON'T TELL ANYONE.

LET ME KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENED.

DID SHE HEAR ABOUT THE KISSING THING...?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MIE-SAN?

Ah!

JUMP

WAH!

WE'RE PREPARING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL,

AFTER ALL...

I—

I CAN ALSO STAY UNTIL 19:00.

I WONDER IF THIS IS REALLY OKAY WITH HER?

... SHE'S ACTING KIND OF WEIRD...

YAAAY!

REALLY ~~?

THANK YOU~~

...MAYBE SHE WANTED TO STAY WITH ME...

...

BUT WHAT REASON WOULD SHE HAVE TO LIE LIKE THAT...?

JUMP

SLAP

ARE YOU TIRED?

I JUST WANTED TO WAKE MYSELF UP...

AH, IT'S NOTHING ...

WHAT'S WRONG, KOMURA?

?

THERE'S NO WAY THAT WOULD BE THE CASE... I'M GETTING TOO AHEAD OF MYSELF...

WHY THE HECK WOULD SHE SACRIFICE HER MORNING HOT CHOCOLATE AND RISK GETTING SCOLDED FOR ME...

T-THEN,

LET'S LINE UP THE NAMETAGS AND PRODUCTS.

SHALL WE BEGIN?

SURE.

I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU TWO THEN! BYE!

WHAT TIME IS IT...

IT'S ALMOST 18:00.

Y—

YEAH.

...MIE-SAN

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS...?

...

LET'S GET THIS FINISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

...

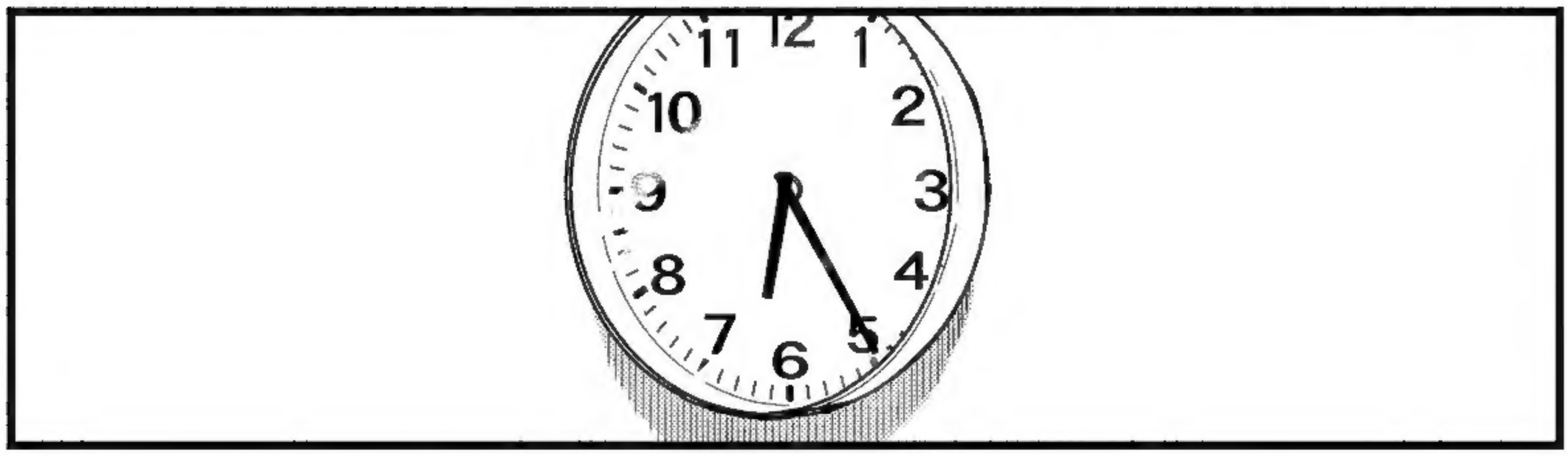
REALLY THE CASE ...?

...IS THAT...

IT—

IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME STAYING AT SCHOOL THIS LATE,

SO I'M KINDA NERVOUS ...


12
1
2
3
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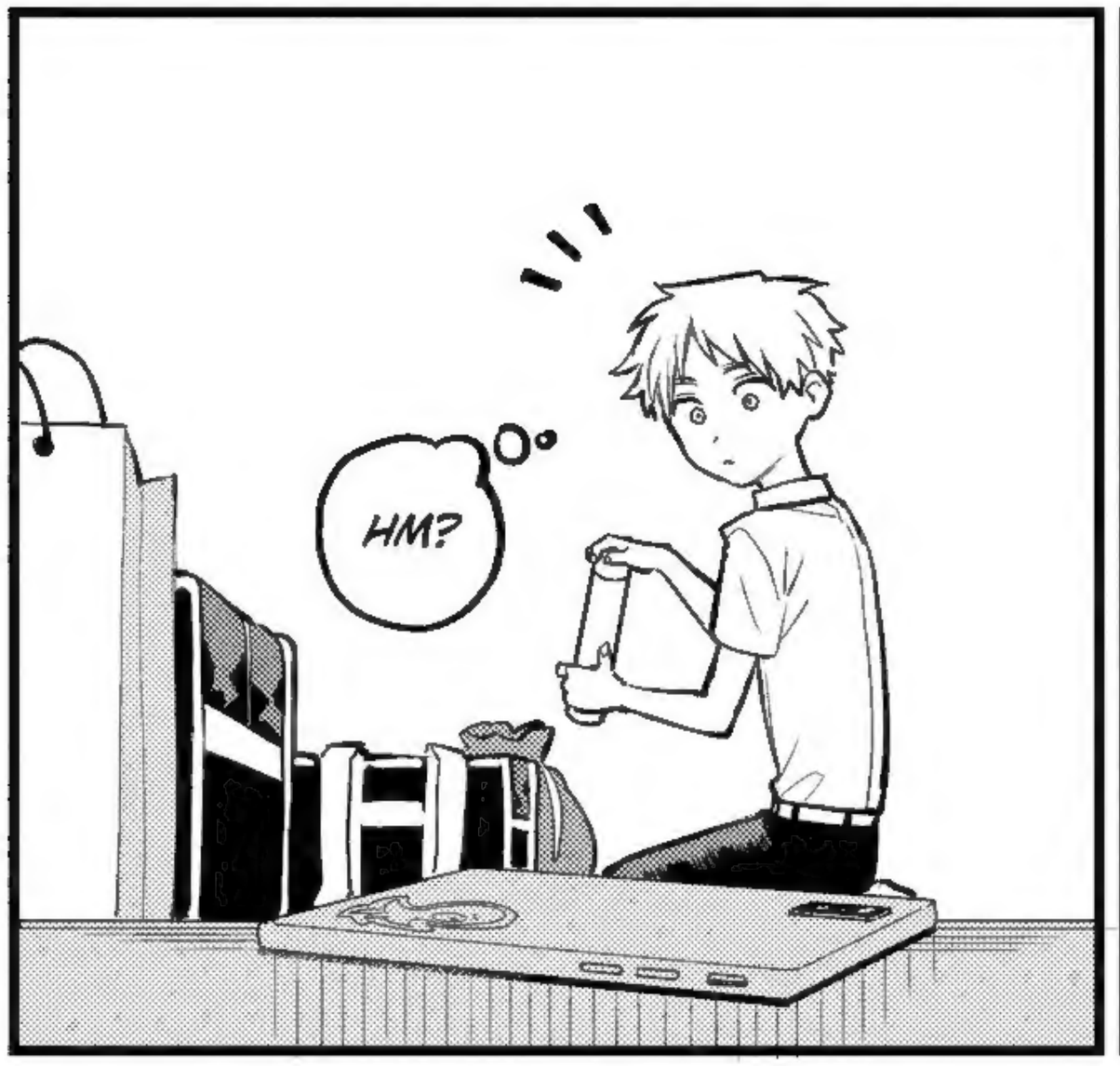
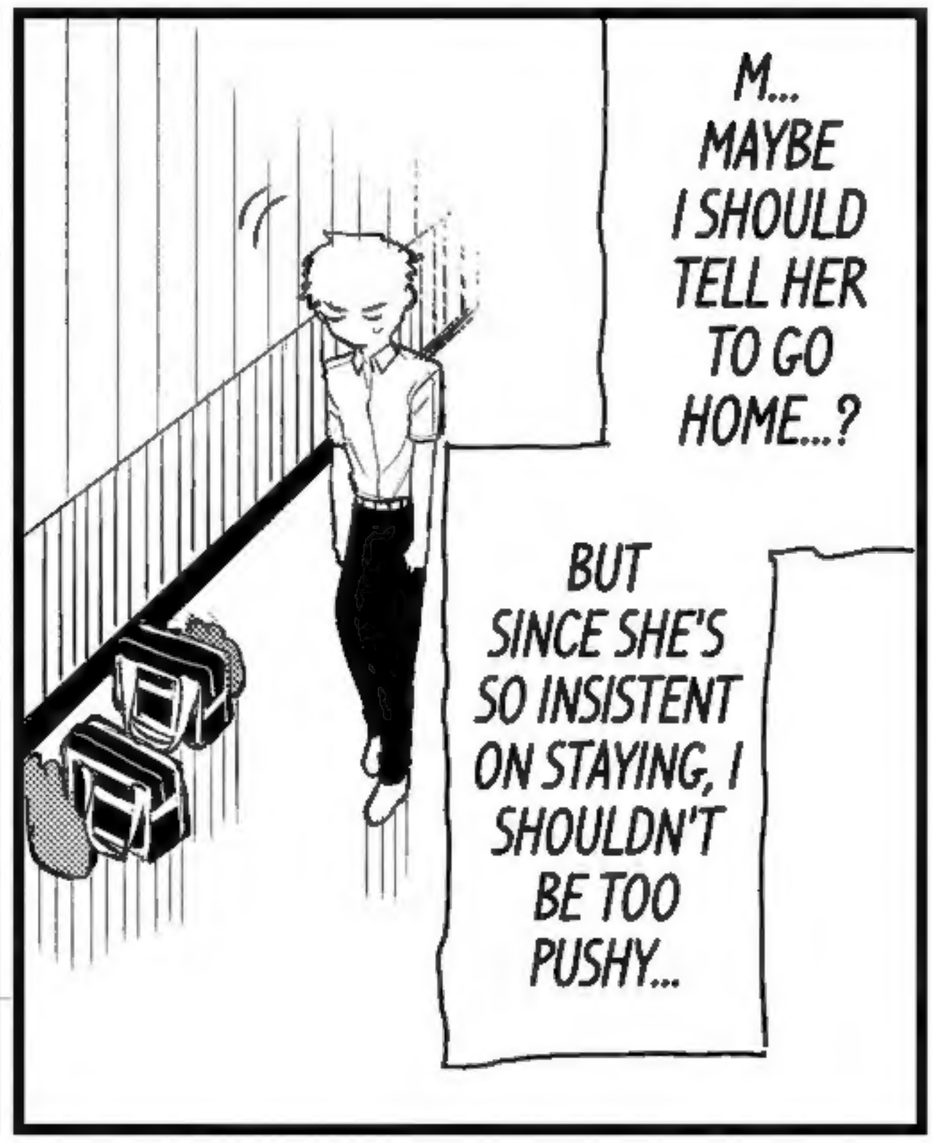
...MIE-SAN...
30 MINUTES HAVE PASSED AND SHE'S ONLY ON HER THIRD EXHIBITION...
SHAKE...
SHAKE...


HM?


M... MAYBE I SHOULD TELL HER TO GO HOME...?
BUT SINCE SHE'S SO INSISTENT ON STAYING, I SHOULDN'T BE TOO PUSHY...

ISN'T THIS MIE-SAN'S PHONE?

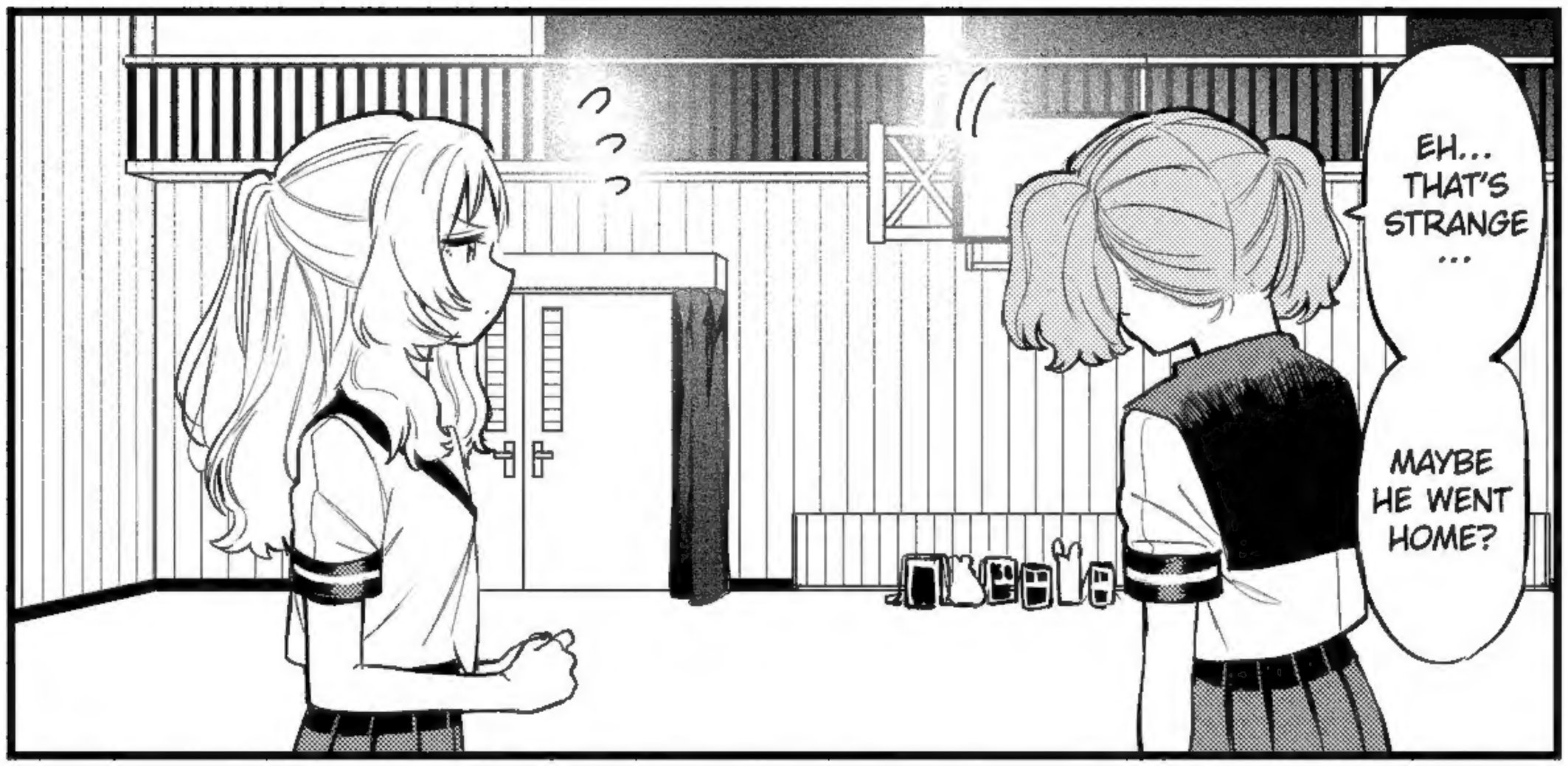
I GUESS SHE DROPPED IT...

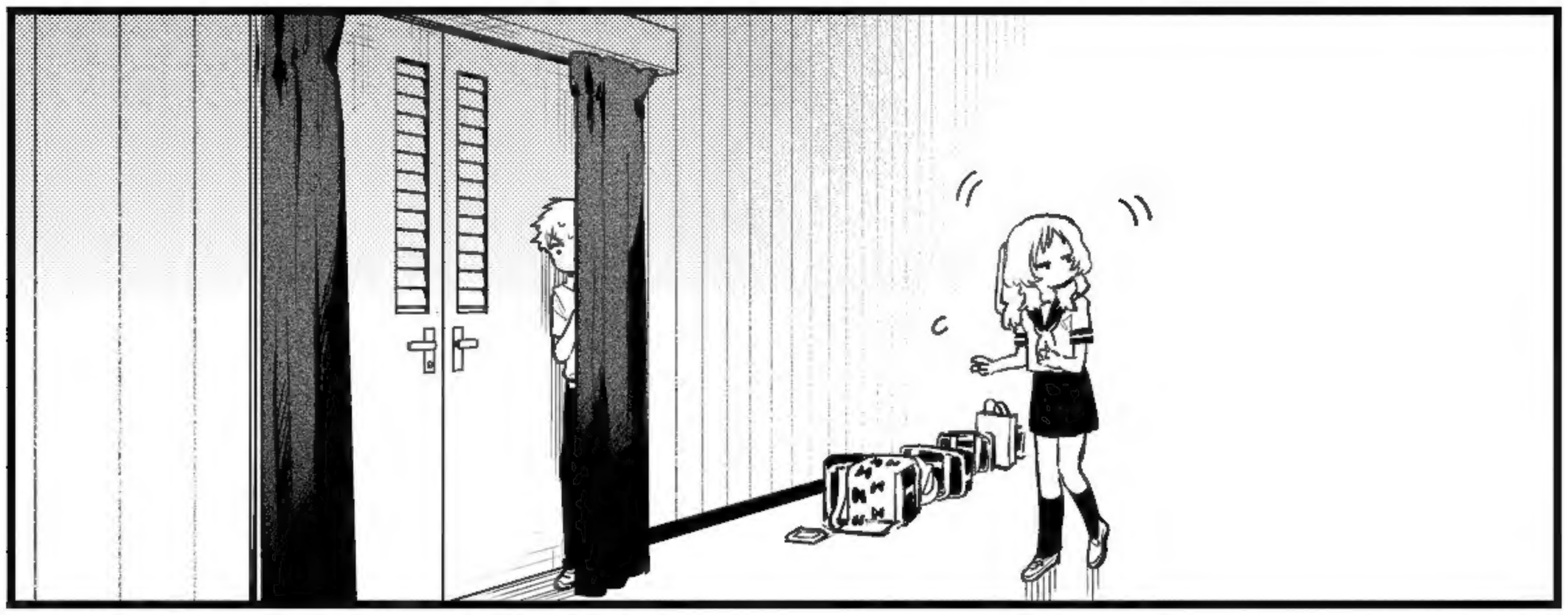
18:32
August 10th, Wednesday
Mother
3 Unread Messages
LINE
Mother
What are you doing
LINE
Mother
Hello?

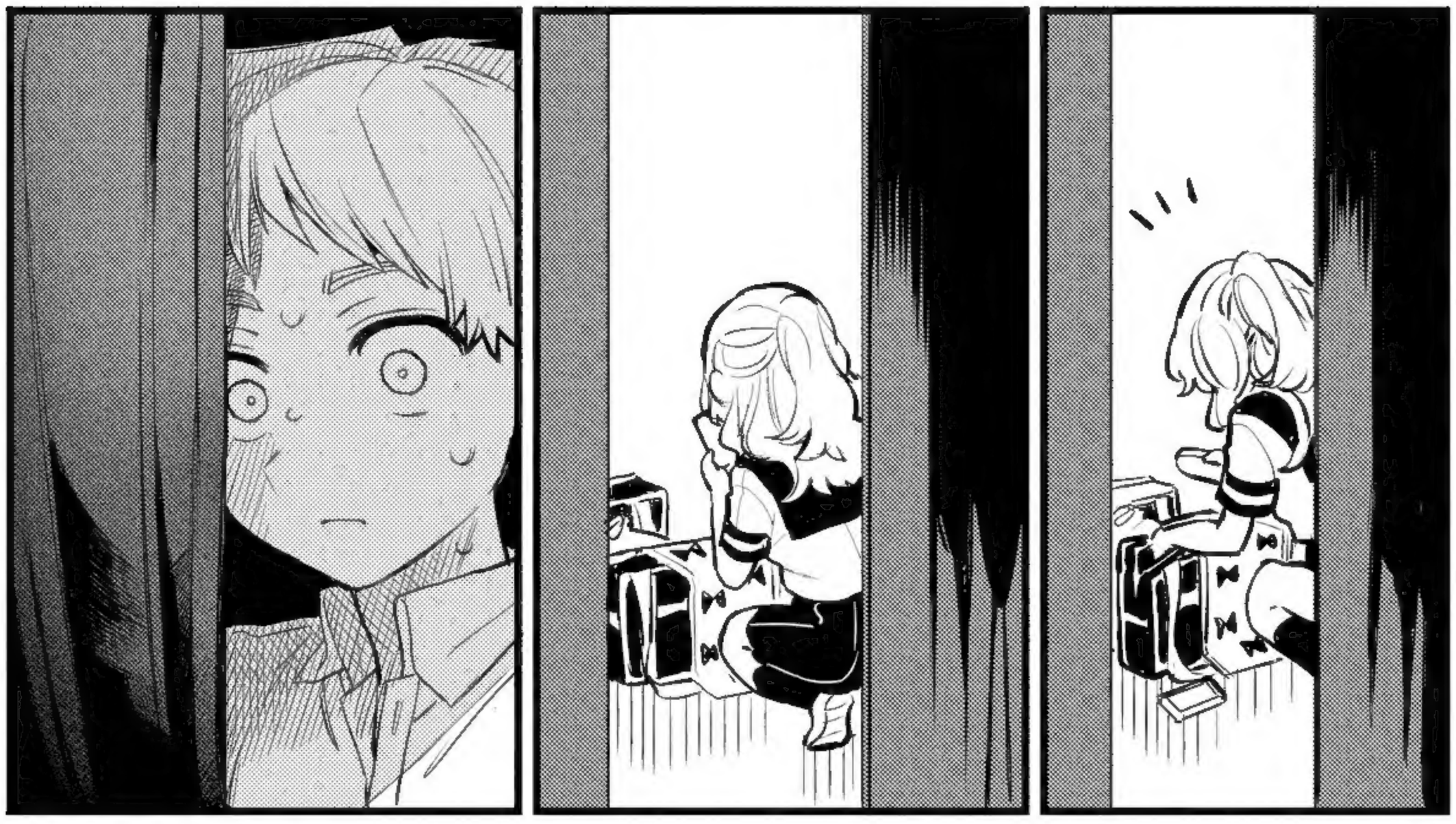
EH?

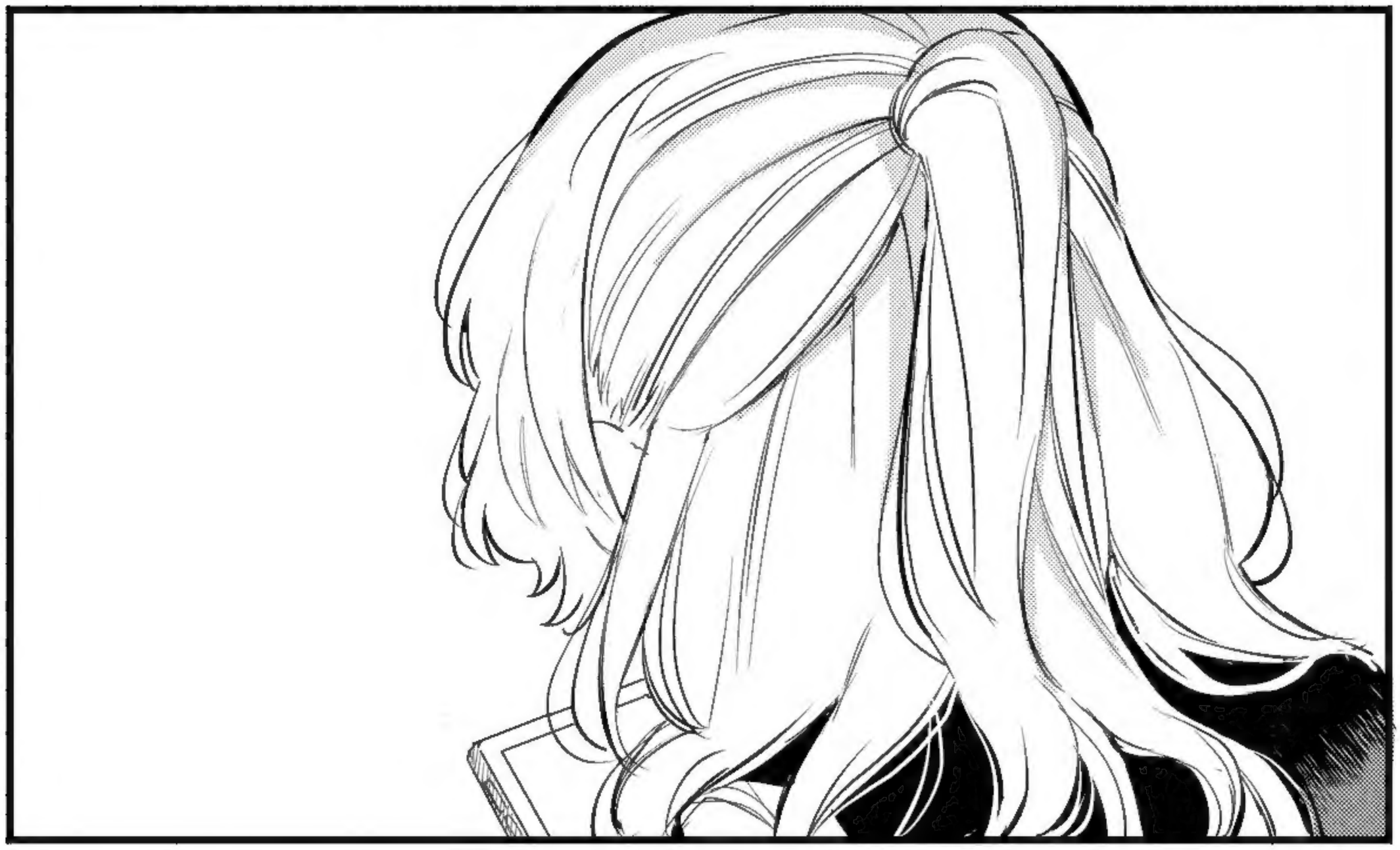
HEY, WHERE'S KOMURA-KUN?

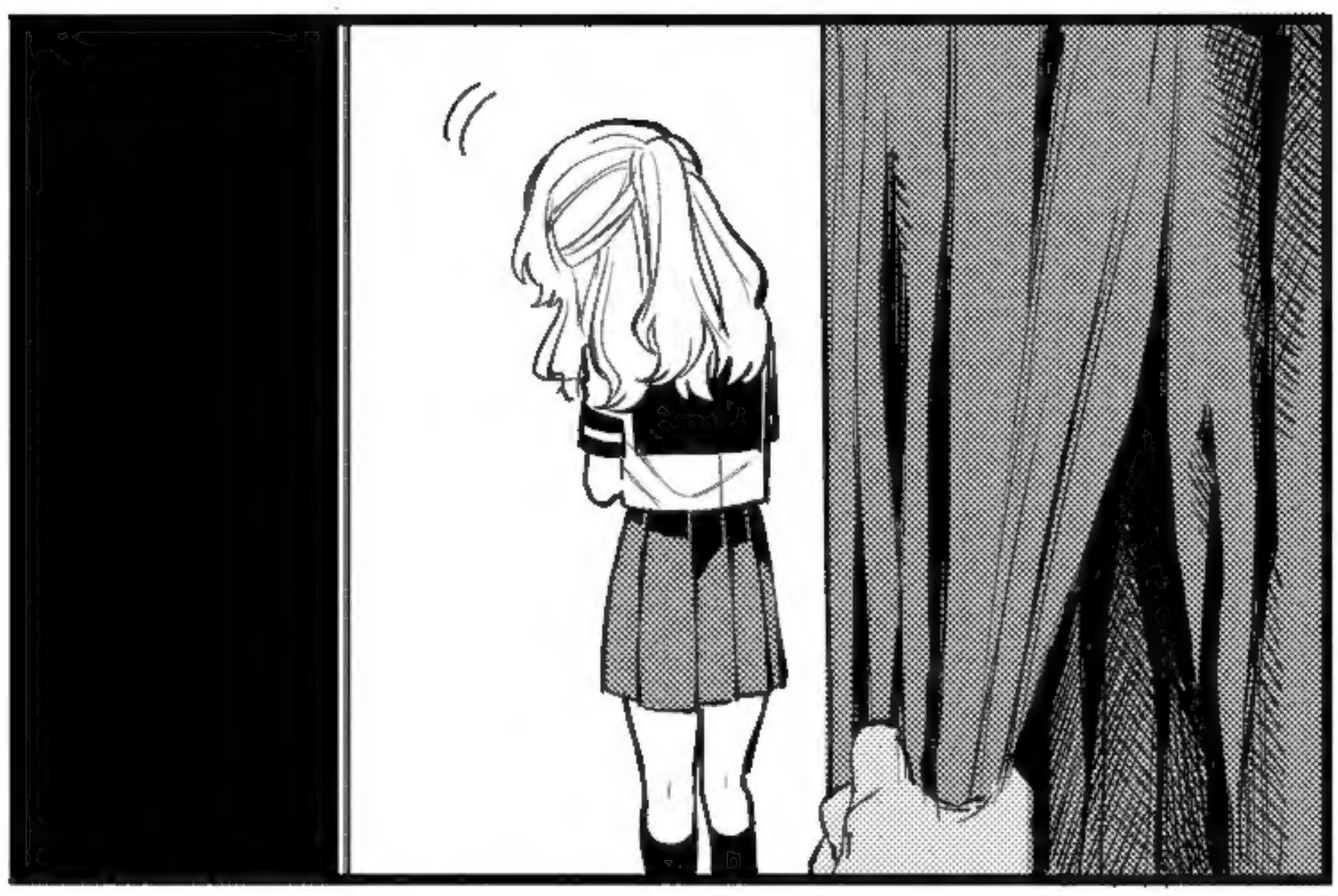
TURN

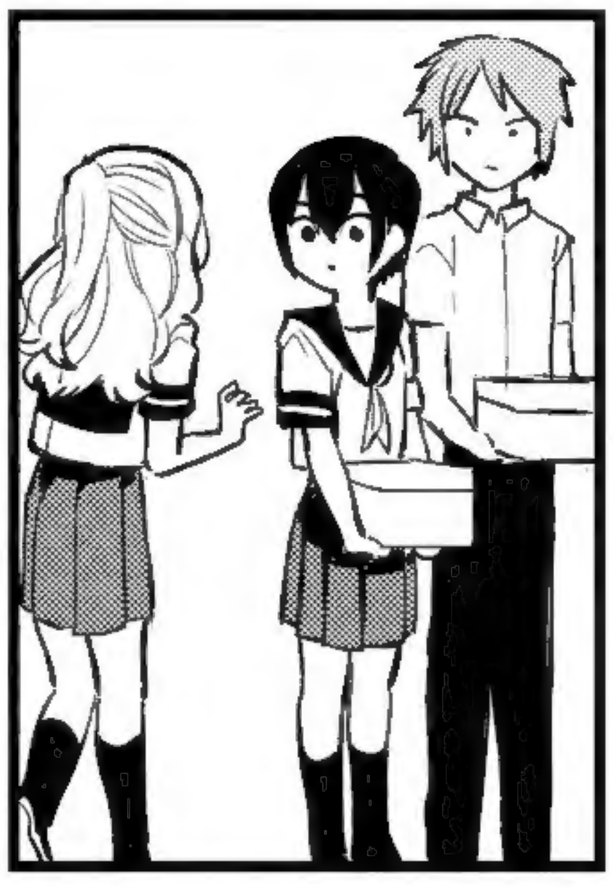

EH... THAT'S STRANGE ...
MAYBE HE WENT HOME?

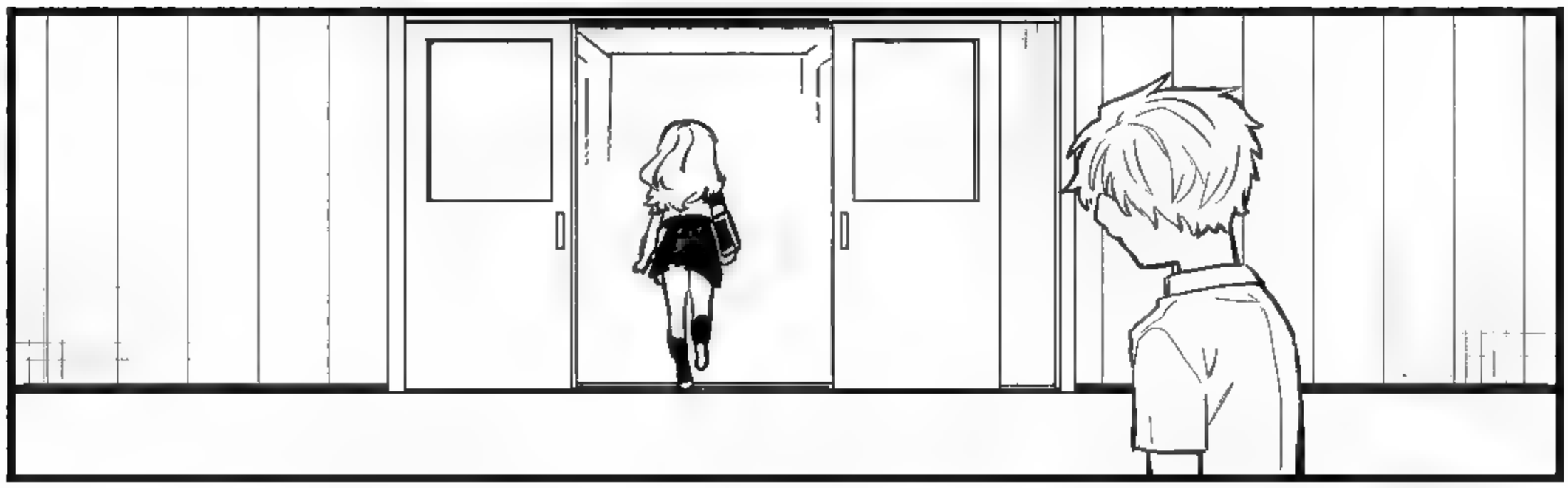


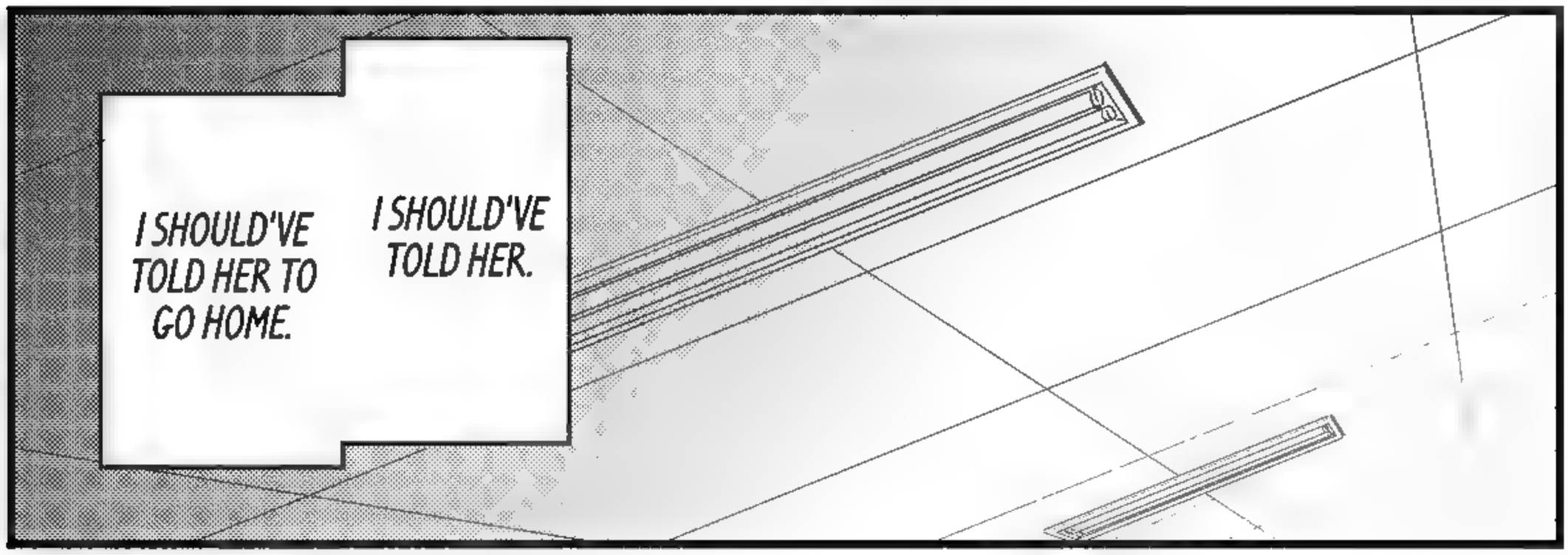


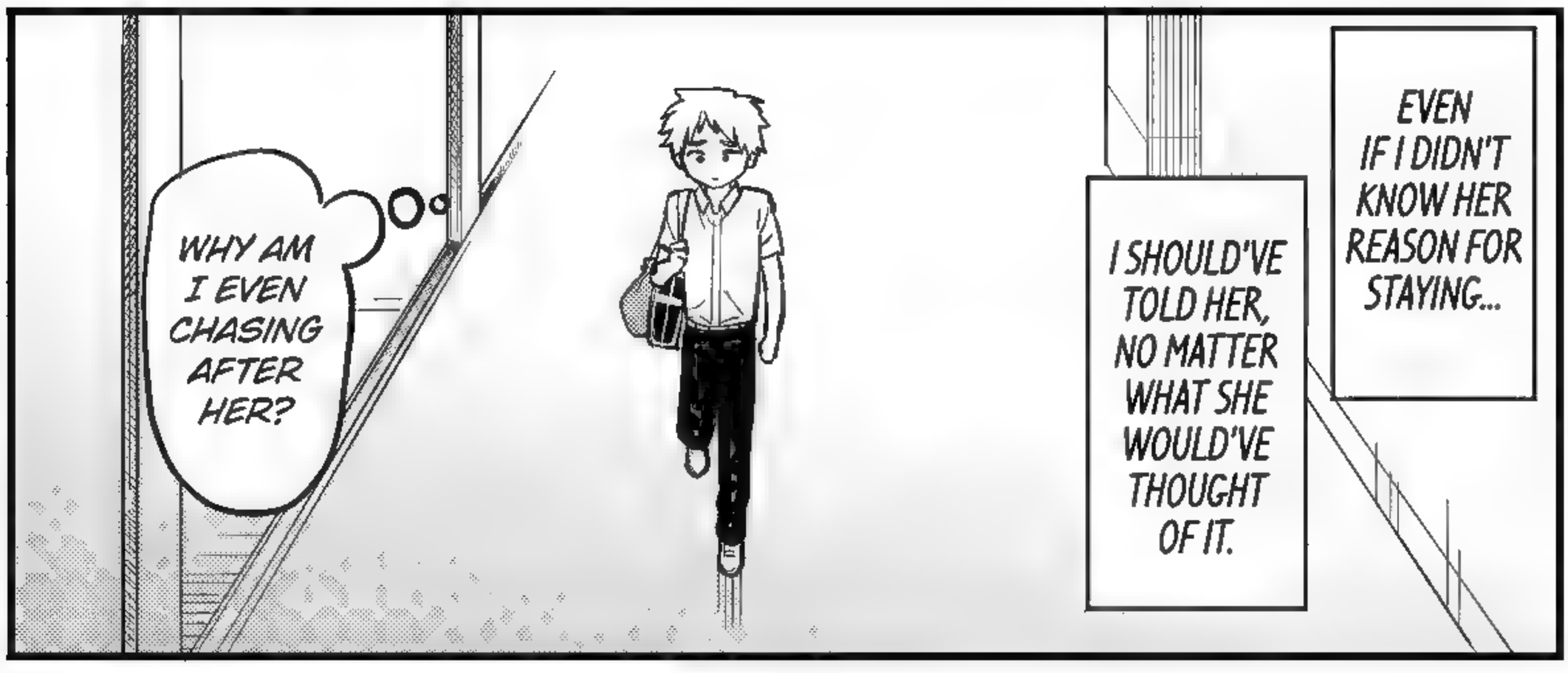









I SHOULD'VE TOLD HER TO GO HOME.
I SHOULD'VE TOLD HER.


WHY AM I EVEN CHASING AFTER HER?
I SHOULD'VE TOLD HER, NO MATTER WHAT SHE WOULD'VE THOUGHT OF IT.
EVEN IF I DIDN'T KNOW HER REASON FOR STAYING...

!?

JUMP

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN EVEN DO ANYTHING ...

SHE MUST'VE STARTED OPENING THOSE ONES AT THE TOP,

THAT WAS WHERE HER SHOEBOX WAS FOR THE SECOND YEAR!

AND NOW SHE'S PROBABLY EXTREMELY CONFUSED ...!

Please calm down!

PANIC PANIC

AH... AH!

SHE CAN'T FIND HER SHOEBOX...

SHE GAVE UP AND DECIDED TO WEAR HER GYM SHOES.

RUSTLE

AH!

I... I HAVE TO GIVE HER HER SHOES.

SHE MIGHT SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?"

... SHOULD I REALLY GIVE THESE TO HER?

AND ENDED UP WEARING THEM.

EVEN NOW, WE STILL HAVE THE SAME SHOES.

THERE WAS ONE TIME...

WHERE MIE-SAN THOUGHT MY SHOES WERE HERS...

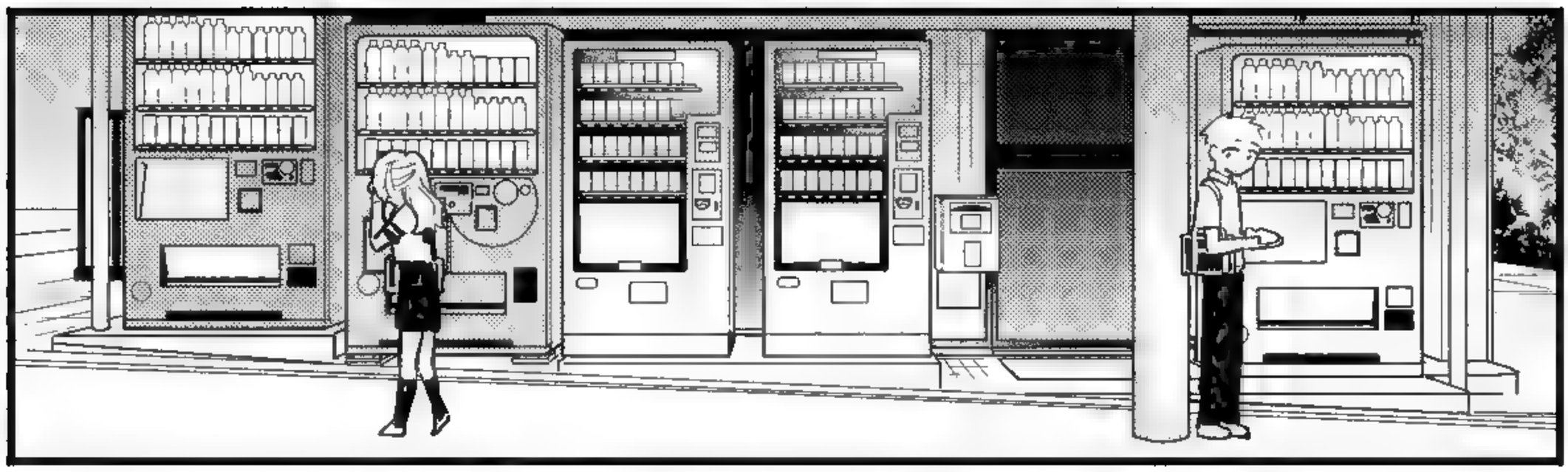
Inhale
Exhale

AND PASS IT OFF AS A COINCI-DENCE...

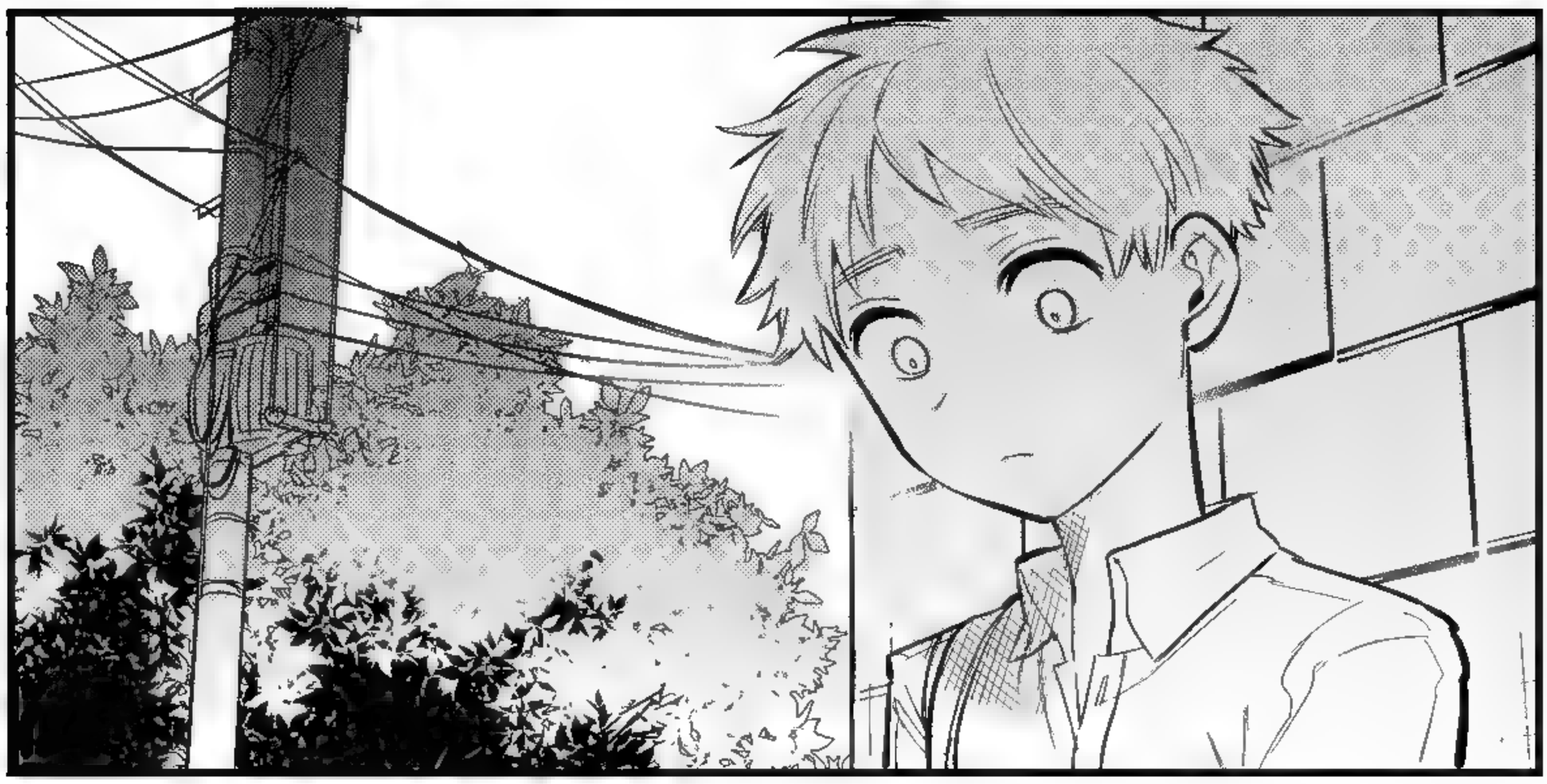
W...WELL, I CAN JUST TELL HER THAT I WAS ON MY WAY HOME TOO,

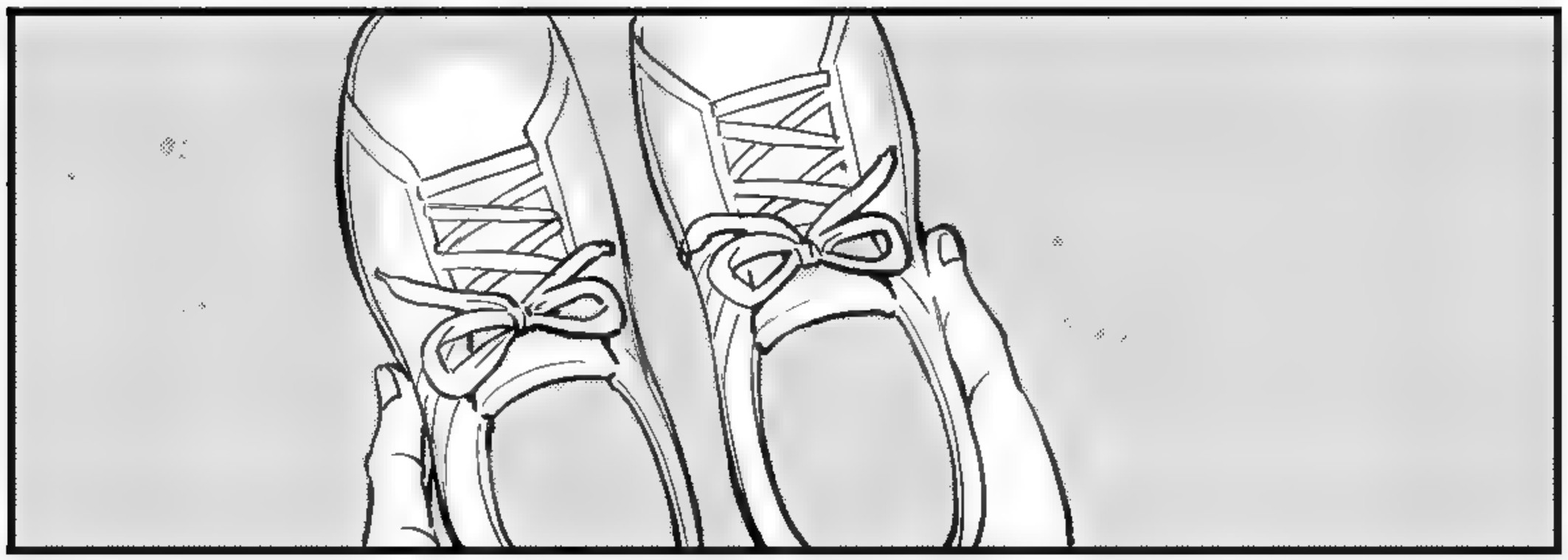
Sniffle

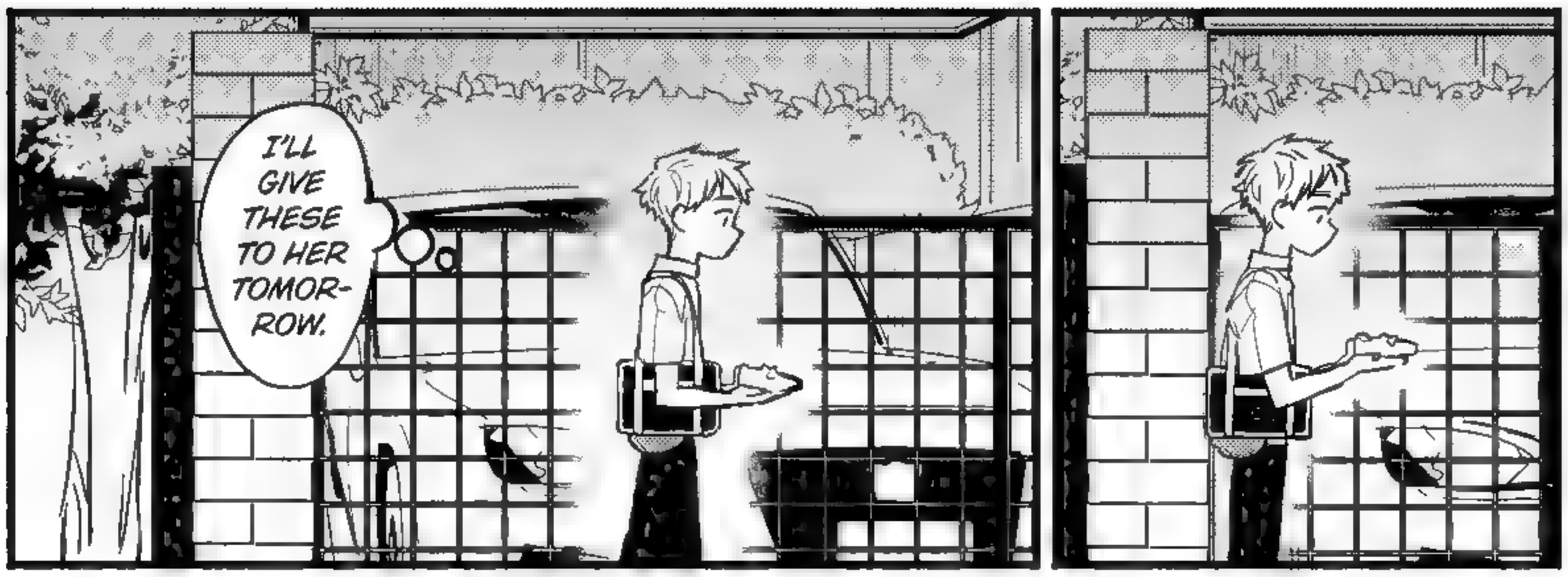
Sob...

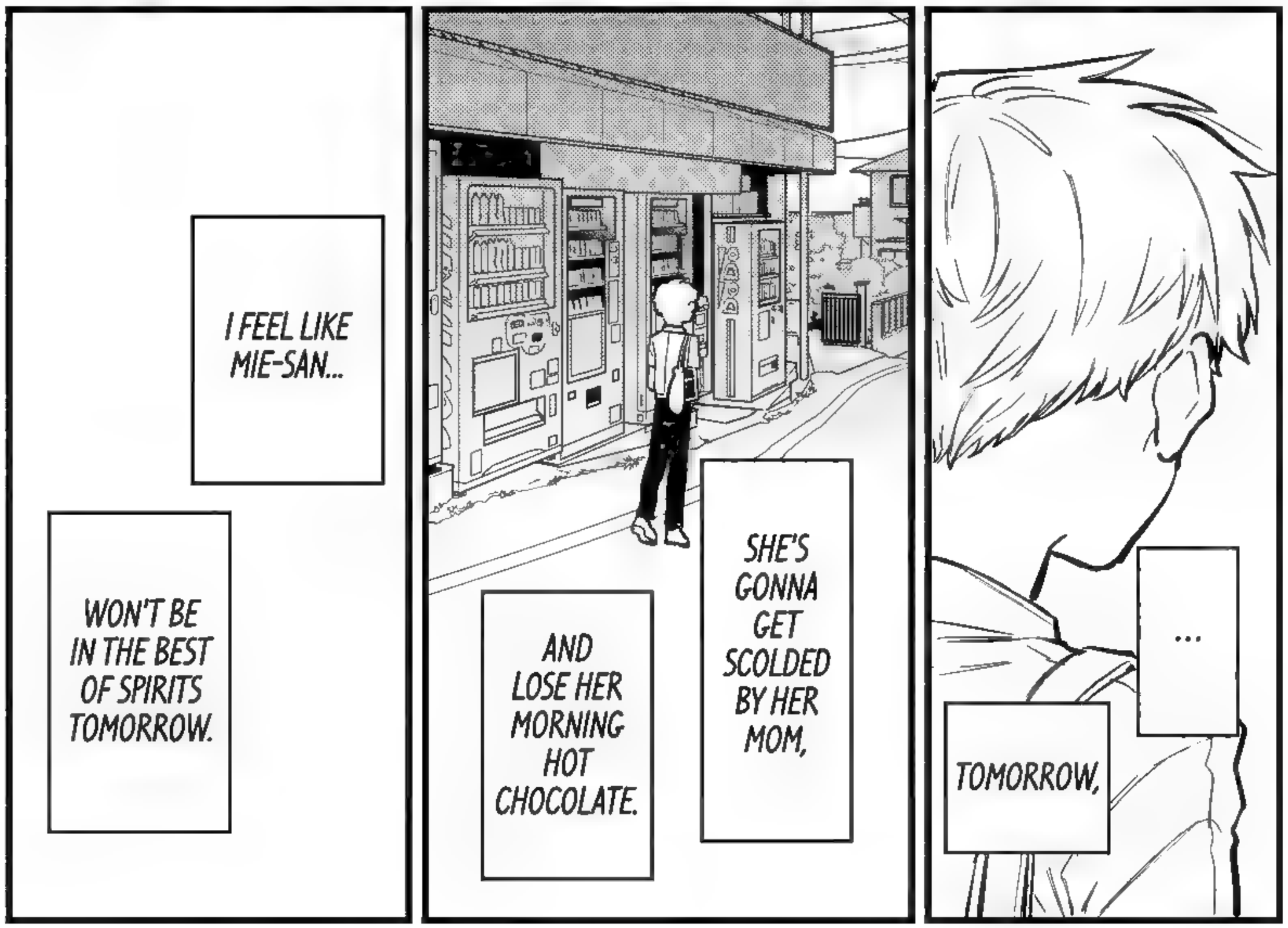


SHUT
CREAK






I'LL GIVE THESE TO HER TOMOR-ROW.


I FEEL LIKE MIE-SAN...
WON'T BE IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS TOMORROW.
AND LOSE HER MORNING HOT CHOCOLATE.
SHE'S GONNA GET SCOLDED BY HER MOM,
...
TOMORROW,

YOU DIDN'T EVEN RESPOND TO YOUR MESSAGES...

WHY WERE YOU SO LATE TODAY?

...

ANYWAYS, COME EAT DINNER.

...

SORRY.

DING DONG

I'LL GET IT.

COME IN.

OPEN

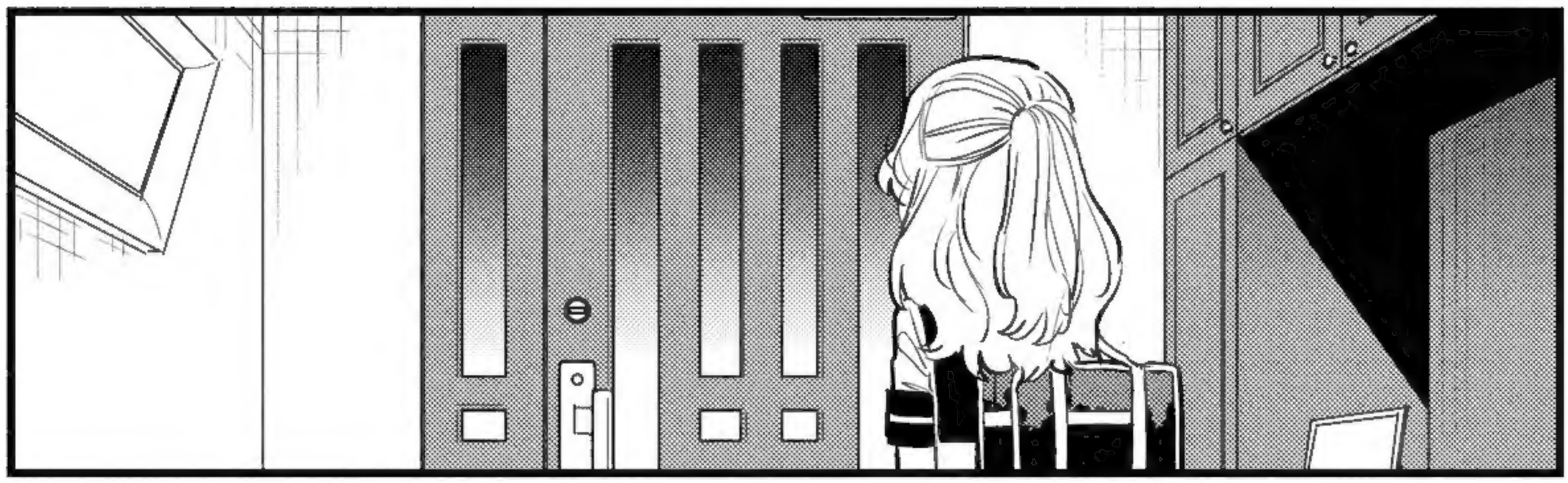
UM.

AH—

EXCUSE ME...

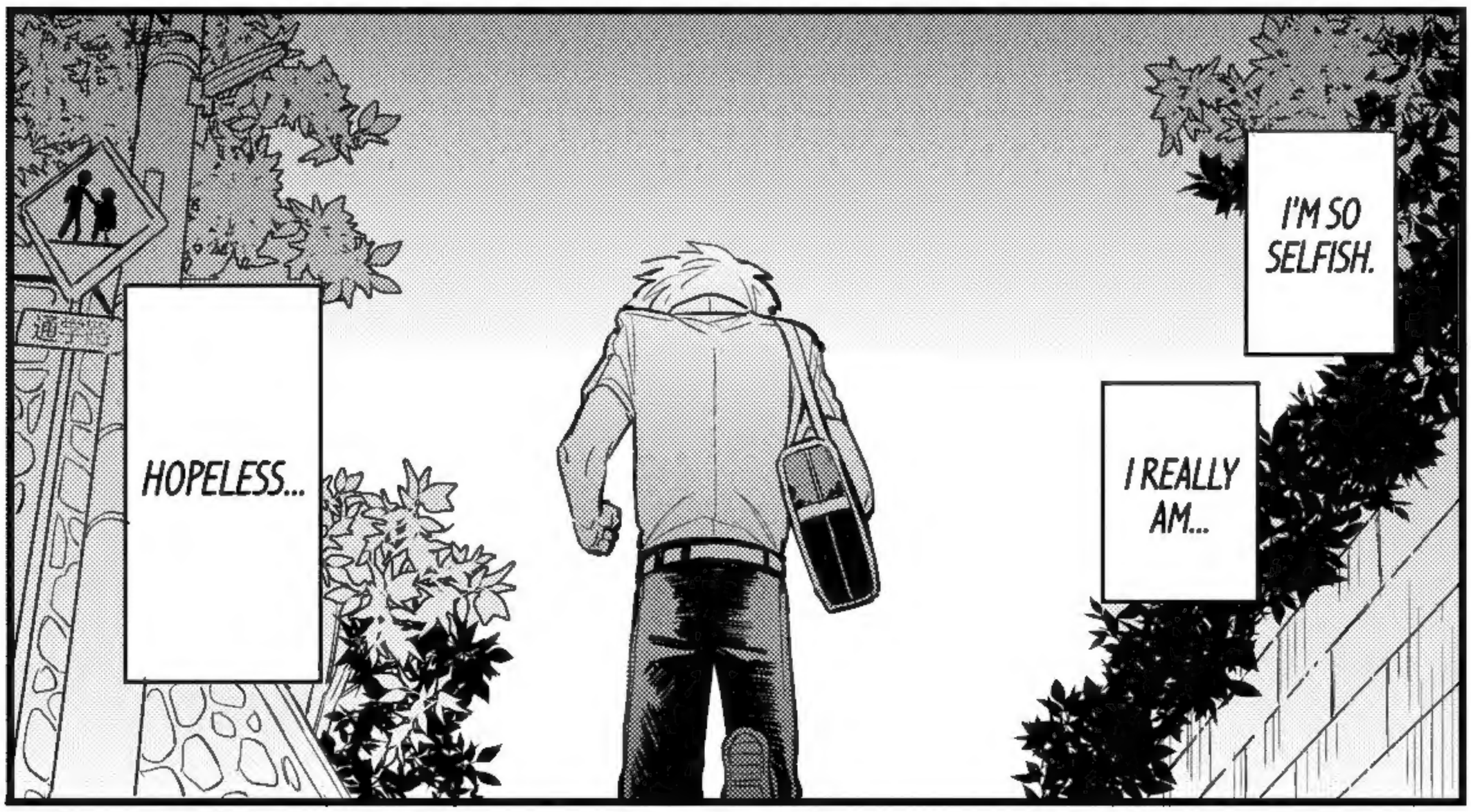
TH—
THAT'S KOMURA-KUN.
AH.
A FRIEND?
I—
I'M MIE-SAN'S CLASS-MATE.
UM,
I ACCIDENTALLY WORE THESE SHOES HOME...
BECAUSE THEY'RE THE SAME SHOES...
THESE SHOES ... BELONG TO MIE-SAN.
W—
WAS IT HARD TO MAKE IT BACK HOME?
WITHOUT YOUR SHOES, I MEAN ...
フフフ
S—
SORRY, MIE-SAN.

AH.
I SEE...
N—
NO, IT WASN'T.
SEE YOU...
TOMOR-ROW...
TH—
THEN,
...WELL, WHAT-EVER.
COME EAT DINNER.
EH?
SO YOU WENT HOME WITH YOUR GYM SHOES?
EXCUSE ME...
SHUT

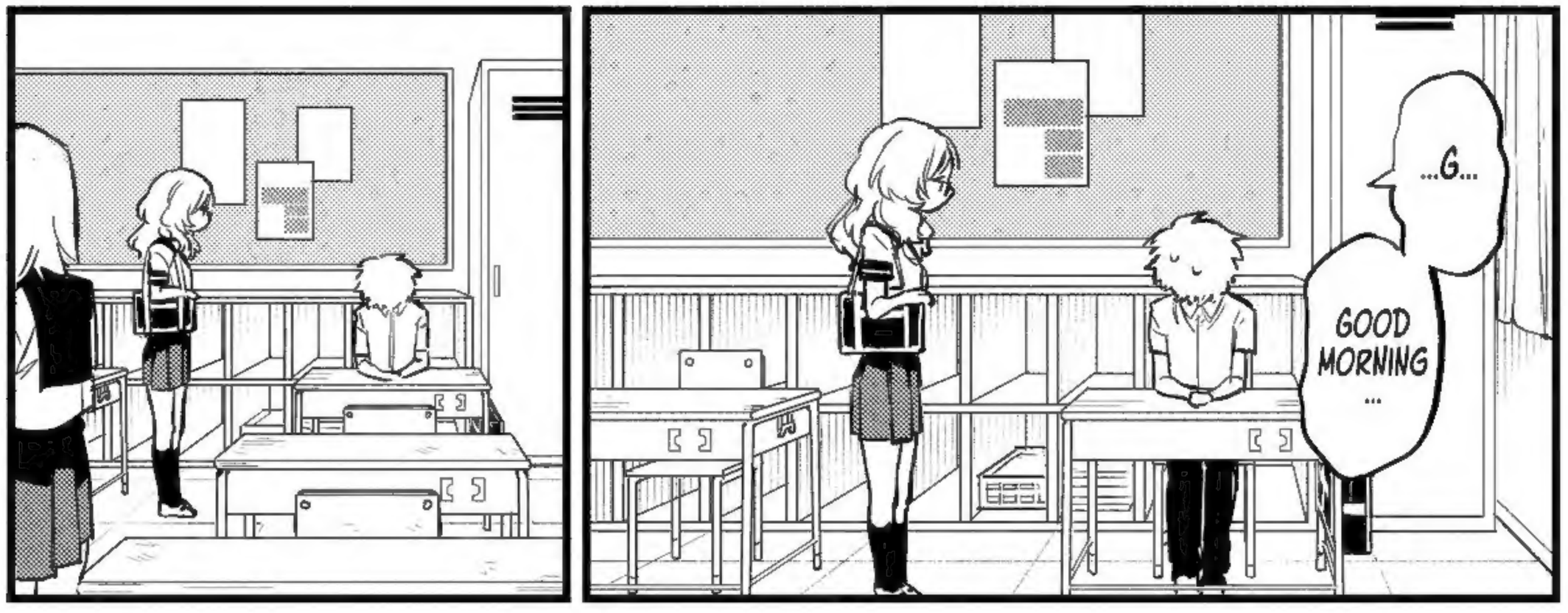


HER MOTHER WAS PRETTY.
I DEFINITELY LOOKED SUSPICIOUS...
BY GOING TO HER HOUSE...
MAYBE I CAUSED TROUBLE FOR HER...

I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU IN HIGH SPIRITS TOMORROW.
BUT I...
SORRY, MIE-SAN...


HOPELESS...
I'M SO SELFISH.
I REALLY AM...

KOMURA-KUN.
GOOD MORNING.


...G...
GOOD MORNING...

YEAH.

...
Y—
YOU WORE YOUR GLASSES ...

AFTER MY HOT CHOCOLATE FOGGED THEM UP.

... I ALMOST FORGOT TO PUT THEM BACK ON ...

I'M GLAD SHE SEEMS FINE TODAY.

I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GET BRANDED AS A STALKER.

I'M GLAD I DIDN'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE.

I—
I SEE.